Cause No. 19,487 STACEY EDGAR, as Next Friend IN THE DISTRI for A.H., a Minor § **Plaintiff** 9999999 V. CALLAHAN COUNTY, YISRAYL HAWKINS a/k/a **BUFFALO BILL HAWKINS, Individually** § and d/b/a HOUSE OF YAHWEH; \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ PARTY DOING BUSINESS AS HOUSE OF YAHWEH; and YEDIDIYAH KOHANIMYAH HAWKINS a/k/a CHRISTOPHER JANDRISEVITS. §

## PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION AND REQUESTS FOR DISCLOSURE

§

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

**Defendants** 

COMES NOW STACEY EDGAR, as Next Friend for A.H., a Minor, Plaintiff in the above styled and numbered cause, complaining of YISRAYL HAWKINS a/k/a BUFFALO BILL HAWKINS, Individually and d/b/a HOUSE OF YAHWEH; PARTY DOING BUSINESS AS HOUSE OF YAHWEH and YEDIDIYAH KOHANIMYAH HAWKINS a/k/a CHRISTOPHER JANDRISEVITS, Defendants herein, and for cause of action respectfully shows as follows:

#### DISCOVERY CONTROL PLAN

1. Plaintiff intends to conduct discovery under a Level 3 discovery control plan.

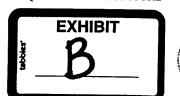
#### **FACTS**

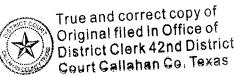
2. The minor child A.H. was assaulted and sexually assaulted by the Defendant Yedidiyah Kohanimyah Hawkins a/k/a Christopher Jandrisevits both in his home with Stacey Edgar and in the home of his other wife Rachel Hawkins, both located on Defendant House of Yahweh property.

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PAGE 1

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION AND REQUESTS FOR DISCLOSURE





JUDICIAL DISTRICT

#### **PARTIES**

- 3. Plaintiff is a citizen and resident of Harris County, Texas.
- 4. Defendant Yisrayl Hawkins a/k/a Buffalo Bill Hawkins, Individually and d/b/a House of Yahweh is a citizen and resident of Taylor County and may be personally served at his primary residence located at 817 Formosa Street, Lot 18, Abilene, TX 79602, or wherever he may be found.
- 5. Defendant Yedidiyah Kohanimyah Hawkins a/k/a Christopher Jandrisevits is an inmate with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and may be personally served at the Dalhart Unit (SID #08076379 and TDJD #01544261), 11950 FM 998, Dalhart, TX 79022, or wherever he may be found.
- 6. Defendant Party doing Business as House of Yahweh is an isolated religious cult, and may be served by and through its designated leader Defendant Yisrayl Hawkins a/k/a Buffalo Bill Hawkins at his primary residence located at 817 Formosa Street, Lot 18, Abilene, TX 79602, or wherever he may be found.

#### **JURISDICTION**

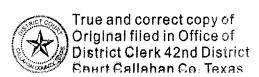
- 7. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the Defendants because the Defendants are residents of this state.
- 8. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this controversy because the damages sought are within the jurisdictional limits of the District Courts of Callahan County, Texas.

#### Background

9. Defendant, Yedidiyah Kohanimyah Hawkins a/k/a Christopher Jandrisevits, (hereinafter referred to as Yedidiyah Hawkins) began engaging in inappropriate sexual behavior with the minor Plaintiff when she was approximately 6 years old and said inappropriate behavior continued until

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION AND REQUESTS FOR DISCLOSURE

PAGE 2



she was 14 years of age. The inappropriate sexual behavior by Defendant Yedidiyah Hawkins took place both in his home with Stacey Edgar and in the home of his other wife Rachel Hawkins, both located on Defendant House of Yahweh property

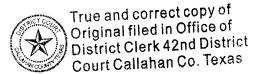
#### **CAUSES OF ACTION**

- 10. Defendants knowingly, intentionally, recklessly, and negligently engaged in conduct violative of Section 22.021 of the Texas Penal Code (Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child), and said violation caused injury to the Plaintiffs.
- 11. Defendants intentionally or knowingly caused physical contact with A.H. when he knew or should reasonably have believed that A.H. would regard the contact as offensive or provocative.
- 12. Defendants engaged in a course of conduct that was so outrageous in character or extreme in degree, as to go beyond all possible bounds of decency, and to be regarded as atrocious, and utterly intolerable in a civilized community. Defendants knew or had reason to know of facts that created a high degree of risk that his conduct would cause emotional distress to A.H. yet proceeded in conscious disregard of, or indifference to, that risk. The conduct proximately caused A.H. to suffer emotional distress and that emotional distress was severe. Defendants inflicted emotional distress upon A.H. in a manner so unusual that she has no other recognized means of redress.

#### REQUESTS FOR DISCLOSURE

13. Pursuant to Rule 194, TEXAS RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, Defendants are requested to disclose to Plaintiff, within fifty (50) days of service of this request, the information or material described in Rule 194.2(a) through (l) to be produced at the office of Noteboom - The Law Firm, 669 Airport Freeway, Suite 100, Hurst, Texas 76053.

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#### **EXEMPLARY DAMAGES**

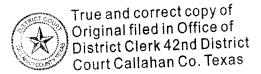
14. The harm for which the Plaintiff demands compensation resulted from malice, an intentional act, or gross negligence, and the Plaintiff seeks exemplary damages.

#### **DAMAGES**

- 15. As a result of the Defendants' actions, Plaintiff, has or will sustain the following damages:
  - a. Medical, counseling, psychological and therapeutic expenses in the past and in the future;
  - b. Pain, physical suffering, emotional distress, both in the past and in the future; and,
  - c. Mental anguish and emotional distress, both in the past and in the future.

#### **RELIEF SOUGHT**

- 16. Plaintiff requests that Defendants be cited to appear and answer, and that this case be tried after which Plaintiff receive:
  - a) Judgment against Defendants for a sum within the jurisdictional limits of this Court for the damages indicated above;
  - b) Exemplary damages;
  - c) Pre-judgment interest at the maximum amount allowed by law;
  - d) Post-judgment interest at the maximum rate allowed by law;
  - e) Costs of suit; and
  - f) Such other and further relief to which Plaintiffs may be justly entitled.



Respectfully submitted,

Charles M. Noteboom State Bar No. 15116875 Brian W. Butcher State Bar No. 24029928

NOTEBOOM-THE LAW FIRM 669 Airport Freeway, Suite 100 Hurst, TX 76053 817.282.9700 817.282.8073 Fax chuck@noteboom.com butcher@noteboom.com



STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF CALLAHAN
CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY
Of the Original in My Cystody Vol.\_\_\_\_ Page\_\_\_
Dated\_\_\_\_\_\_ A.D.\_\_\_
Sharon Owers
District Clerk, 42nd District Court
Callahan County, Texas
By:\_\_\_\_\_

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FORT WORTH DIVISION

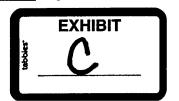
GUIDEONE INSURANCE COMPANY,	§	
	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	CIVIL ACTION NO.
VS.	§	
	§	
HOUSE OF YAHWEH,	§	
YISRAYL HAWKINS a/k/a	§	
<b>BUFFALO BILL HAWKINS, Individually</b>	§	
and d/b/a HOUSE OF YAHWEH, and	§	
YEDIDIYAH KOHANIMYAH HAWKINS	§	
a/k/a CHRISTOPHER JANDRISEVITS,	§	
	§	
Defendants.	§.	

## PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY RELIEF

Plaintiff, GuideOne Insurance Company (hereinafter "GuideOne"), brings this suit for declaratory relief against House of Yahweh, Yisrayl Hawkins a/k/a Buffalo Bill Hawkins, Individually and d/b/a House of Yahweh, and Yedidiyah Kohanimyah Hawkins a/k/a Christopher Jandrisevits (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Yahweh Defendants"), and would show the Court the following:

### **NATURE OF THE SUIT**

1. This is a declaratory judgment action, based on diversity jurisdiction, whereby GuideOne Insurance Company seeks a declaration of legal rights concerning liability insurance policies issued to the House of Yahweh and whether they protect the Yahweh Defendants from sexual abuse claims. The House of Yahweh follows the teachings of its Prophet, now called Yisrayl Hawkins, who operates a compound where his disciples live. The mother of A.H., a minor, who PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY RELIEF - Page 1



allegedly suffered sexual abuse from the age of 6 through the age 14, claims that the Yahweh Defendants committed the sexual abuse on the premises located within the compound operated by the House of Yahweh. This declaratory judgment action seeks a determination of whether these sexual abuse claims come within the insurance coverage provided by GuideOne?

## **JURISDICTION AND SERVICE OF PROCESS**

- 2. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to diversity jurisdiction, 28 U.S.C. §1332, for civil actions between citizens of different states.
- 3. GuideOne Insurance Company is a corporation, incorporated under the laws of the State of Iowa, with its principal place of business at 1111 Ashworth Road, West Des Moines, Iowa 50265. Therefore, it is a citizen of the State of Iowa.
- 4. Defendant House of Yahweh (the insured) is a Texas Nonprofit Corporation, with its principal place of business at 1025 T & P Lane, Abilene, Texas 79602. It is a citizen of Texas. It may be served with process by serving its Agent and Prophet, Yisrayl Hawkins at 817 Formosa Street, Lot 18, Abilene, Texas 79602 and/or 1025 T & P Lane, Abilene, Texas 79602, or wherever he may be found.
- 5. Defendant Yisrayl Hawkins a/k/a Buffalo Bill Hawkins a/k/a William Hawkins, is a citizen of the State of Texas and may be served with process at 817 Formosa Street, Lot 18, Abilene, Texas 79602 and/or 1025 T & P Lane, Abilene, Texas 79602, or wherever he may be found.
- 6. Defendant Yedidiyah Kohanimyah Hawkins a/k/a Christopher Jandrisevits is a citizen of the State of Texas and may be served with process at Dalhart Unit SID #08076379 and TDJD #01544261, 11950 FM 998, Dalhart, Texas 79022 or at his home at 3772 FM 603, Clyde, Texas 79510, or wherever he may be found.

7. The amount in controversy in this case is in excess of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs. Specifically, GuideOne Insurance Company seeks a declaration regarding the duty to defend, and/or indemnify, the Yahweh Defendants concerning the Underlying Sexual Abuse Suit filed by the mother Stacey Edgar, who claims that A.H., a minor, was sexually molested by the Yahweh Defendants over a nine year period.

#### **VENUE**

8. Venue for this case is proper in the Northern District of Texas, Fort Worth Division because the policy was issued from GuideOne's offices in Arlington, Texas. The insured, House of Yahweh, is located in Abilene, Texas. Based on information and belief, all Defendants reside within the Northern District of Texas. The facts relevant to this claim all occurred near Abilene, Texas.

## FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS

- 9. The House of Yahweh is a church formed by ex-Abilene police officer Bill Hawkins, a/k/a Buffalo Bill Hawkins, and now called the Prophet Yisrayl Hawkins. The House of Yahweh compound is located outside Abilene, Texas, and is devoted to following the teachings of Yisrayl Hawkins as a modern day prophet. Members live in a close community and members often change their last names to "Hawkins" to reflect their relationship with their Prophet, Yisrayl Hawkins.
- 10. GuideOne Lloyds Insurance Company insured House of Yahweh under a series of successive Commercial General Liability ("CGL") insurance policies, covering the time period in question. In general, the policies cover *accidents* causing Bodily Injury or Property Damage up to \$1 million dollars.
- 11. Stacey Edgar was a member of the House of Yahweh. Stacey Edgar, as Next Friend for A.H., a Minor, brought suit on April 5, 2010, against Defendants Yisrayl Hawkins, Individually

and d/b/a House of Yahweh; Party Doing Business As House of Yahweh; and Yedidiyah Kohanimyah Hawkins a/k/a Christopher Jandrisevits, the Yahweh Defendants. The lawsuit (the "Underlying Suit") is brought as Cause No. 19,487 in the 42nd Judicial District Court of Callahan County, Texas. A true and correct copy of the Original Petition in such cause is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

- 12. According to the suit, Stacy Edger was a member of the church and community of House of Yahweh. Allegedly, the Yahweh Defendants began sexually abusing the minor child (A.H.) when she was approximately 6 years of age and said inappropriate behavior continued until she was 14 years of age. The inappropriate behavior allegedly took place in the homes of Stacy Edgar and Rachel "Hawkins." Both properties are allegedly located within the compound of the House of Yahweh, where its believers collectively reside.
- 13. The damages sought by Stacey Edgar against House of Yahweh, and the costs of defending the Yahweh Defendants, greatly exceed the sum of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs. GuideOne has begun a defense of the Yahweh Defendants with a reservation of rights to deny coverage, and/or seek this judicial declaration regarding the lack of coverage. A true and correct copy of such reservation is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

## **CLAIM FOR DECLARATORY RELIEF**

14. A dispute has arisen between GuideOne on the one hand, and the Yahweh Defendants on the other, with respect to whether the claims in the Underlying Suit come within the coverages of the CGL Policies issued by GuideOne. GuideOne asserts that the sexual abuse alleged in the Underlying Suit is not an accident nor a Personal Injury, as those terms are defined within the policy. Furthermore, acts of sexual abuse were not carried out in the course of performing duties for the

insured church and, therefore, the actors were not "insureds" as that term is defined within the policy. Also, certain exclusions would apply, including the Expected or Intended Injury Exclusion, and the Exclusion for Personal Injury arising out of willful violations of Penal Statutes. Finally, coverage is barred under the Fortuity Doctrine and public policy of the State of Texas.

15. Pursuant to the Federal Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. 2201 et seq., GuideOne Insurance Company hereby requests that this Court declare the rights and obligations of GuideOne Insurance Company and Yahweh Defendants with respect to such coverage. Specifically, GuideOne seeks the declaration that it owes no duty to defend or indemnify the Yahweh Defendants from the claims in the Underlying Suit.

## **CONDITIONS PRECEDENT**

16. All conditions precedent to GuideOne securing such declaratory relief have been performed or have occurred.

### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

GuideOne Insurance Company hereby prays that this Court declare the rights and liabilities of the parties to this case, and specifically prays that this Court declare that GuideOne owes no duty to defend or indemnify the Yahweh Defendants from the above-described claims in the Underlying Suit, and for such other and further relief to which GuideOne shows itself justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted

### PRUESSNER & ALEXANDER

/s/ David M. Pruessner

DAVID M. PRUESSNER
State Bar No. 16364500
JES ALEXANDER
State Bar No. 24040404
Three Galleria Tower
13155 Noel Road, Suite 1025
Dallas, Texas 75240
(972) 991-6700
(972) 991-6710 [FAX]
david@prulaw.com
jes@prulaw.com

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
GUIDEONE INSURANCE COMPANY

5460\COMPLAINT

## Case 4:11-cv-00010-Y Document 13-5 Filed 06/10/11 Page 12 of 28 PageID 215

Case 4:11-cv-00010-Y Document 4 Filed 02/03/11 Page 1 of 2 PageID 29

Case 4:11-cv-00010-Y Document 3 Filed 01/05/11 Page 1 of 6 PageID 23

AO 440 (Rev. 04/08) Civil Summons

#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the Northern District of Texas

- Su	mmons in a Civil Action
House of Yahweh, et al	) )
V.	) Civil Action No. 4:11-cv-00010-Y
GuideOne Insurance Company	)

**TO:** (Defendant's name and address) Yedidiyah Kohanimyah Hawkins

also known as Christopher Jandrisevits

A lawsuit has been filed against you. Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it), you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

David Pruessner Three Galleria Tower 13155 Noel Rd Suite 1025 Dallas, TX 75240

If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

RECEIVED

JAN 27 AN II: 27

Sheriff
Char County, Texas





## Case 4:11-cv-00010-Y Document 13-5 Filed 06/10/11 Page 13 of 28 PageID 216

Case 4:11-cv-00010-Y Document 4 Filed 02/03/11 Page 2 of 2 PageID 30

Case 4:11-cv-00010-Y Document 3 Filed 01/05/11 Page 2 of 6 PageID 24

AO 440 (Rev. 04/08) Civil Summons (Page 2)

## **Proof of Service**

		1100.	<b></b>		
I declare under by:	penalty of perjury	that I served the $\mathfrak s$	summons and comp	laint in this case o	on YelidiyAK KohAN. WAWKITS AKA CHRIS JANGRISEVITS
(1) personally	delivering a copy of	of each to the indiv	idual at this place,		Alhark
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(4) returning t	the summons unex	ecuted to the court	clerk on	; c	r
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My fees are \$	75-	for travel and \$	for	services, for a tot	al of \$ 75.
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## Case 4:11-cv-00010-Y Document 13-5 Filed 06/10/11 Page 14 of 28 PageID 217

Case 4:11-cv-00010-Y Document 5 Filed 02/16/11 Page 1 of 2 PageID 31 Case 4:11-cv-00010-Y Document 3 Filed 01/05/11 Page 3 of 6 PageID 25

AO 440 (Rev. 04/08) Civil Summons

#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the Northern District of Texas

GuideOne Insurance Company	)
V.	Civil Action No. 4:11-cv-00010-Y
House of Yahweh, et al	) )

Summons in a Civil Action

**TO:** (Defendant's name and address) Yisrayl Hawkins

also known as Buffalo Bill Hawkins also known as William Hawkins doing business as House of Yahweh

A lawsuit has been filed against you. Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it), you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

David Pruessner Three Galleria Tower 13155 Noel Rd Suite 1025 Dallas, TX 75240

If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

DATE **EXHIBIT EXHIBIT EXHIBIT** 

## Case 4:11-cv-00010-Y Document 13-5 Filed 06/10/11 Page 15 of 28 PageID 218

Case 4:11-cv-00010-Y Document 5 Filed 02/16/11 Page 2 of 2 PageID 32 Case 4:11-cv-00010-Y Document 3 Filed 01/05/11 Page 4 of 6 PageID 26

AO 440 (Rev. 04/08) Civil Summons (Page 2)

Proof	of Service
I declare under penalty of perjury that I served the by:	summons and complaint in this case on (22-07-2011
(1) personally delivering a copy of each to the indiv	ridual at this place, house of YAHNGH
(2) leaving a copy of each at the individual's dwelling who resides there and is of suitable age and dis	ng or usual place of abode with cretion; or
	d by appointment or by law to receive it whose name is $v \cdot S$ ; or
(4) returning the summons unexecuted to the cour	t clerk on; or
(5) other (specify)	
My fees are \$ for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$
Date:	Ed cul uncon, Constable Server's signature
	Printed name and title
	432 MARKET ST Server's address BAIRD, TEXAS 74504
	BAIRO, TEXAS 74504

## Case 4:11-cv-00010-Y Document 13-5 Filed 06/10/11 Page 16 of 28 PageID 219

Case 4:11-cv-00010-Y Document 6 Filed 02/16/11 Page 1 of 2 PageID 33

Case 4:11-cv-00010-Y Document 3 Filed 01/05/11 Page 5 of 6 PageID 27

AO 440 (Rev. 04/08) Civil Summons

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the Northern District of Texas

GuideOne Insurance Company	)
V.	) Civil Action No. 4:11-ev-00010-Y
House of Yahweh, et al	) )

Summons in a Civil Action

TO: (Defendant's name and address)

House of Yahweh

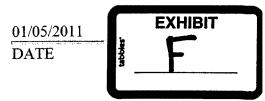
A lawsuit has been filed against you. Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it), you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

David Pruessner Three Galleria Tower 13155 Noel Rd Suite 1025 Dallas, TX 75240

If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.





## Case 4:11-cv-00010-Y Document 13-5 Filed 06/10/11 Page 17 of 28 PageID 220

Case 4:11-cv-00010-Y Document 6 Filed 02/16/11 Page 2 of 2 PageID 34 Case 4:11-cv-00010-Y Document 3 Filed 01/05/11 Page 6 of 6 PageID 28

AO 440 (Rev. 04/08) Civil Summons (Page 2)

	Proof	of Service		
declare under penalty of perjur y:				
(1) personally delivering a copy	of each to the indiv リヒ へら	idual at this place } ィレテッ に	House TEXAS	of Yahush; or
(2) leaving a copy of each at the who resides there and is of s	e individual's dwellin	ig or usual place o		
(3) delivering a copy of each to	an agent authorized	by appointment	or by law to rece	ive it whose name is ; or
(4) returning the summons une	recuted to the court	clerk on		; or
(5) other ( <i>specify</i> )				
1y fees are \$ ,	for travel and \$	fo	r services, for a	total of \$
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## PRUESSNER & ALEXANDER

Three Galleria Tower
13155 Noel Road, Suite 1025
Dallas, Texas 75240
(972) 991-6710 [Fax]
(972) 991-6700
david@prulaw.com

David M. Pruessner

Board Certified, Civil Appellate Law

Texas Board of Legal Specialization

May 4, 2011

Harrison H. Yoss – VIA CM # 7009 2250 0003 9634 3955 RRR
Thompson Coe
700 North Pearl Street
Plaza of the Americas, 25th Floor
Dallas, Texas 75201

House of Yahweh – *VIA CM # 7009 2250 0003 9634 3962 RRR & Regular Mail* 1025 T & P Lane Abilene, Texas 79602

Yisrayl Hawkins – *VIA CM # 7009 2250 0003 9634 3979 RRR & Regular Mail* 817 Formosa Street, Lot 18 Abilene, Texas 79602

Yedidiyah Kohanimyah Hawkins – *VIA CM # 7009 2250 0003 9634 3986 RRR & Regular Mail* a/k/a Christopher Jandrisevits
Dalhart Unit - SID #08076379 and TDJD #01544261
11950 FM 998
Dalhart, Texas 79022

Re: Civil Action No. 4:11-cv-00009

GuideOne Insurance Company v. House of Yahweh, Yisrayl Hawkins a/k/a Buffalo Bill Hawkins, Individually and d/b/a House of Yahweh, and Yedidiyah Kohanimyah Hawkins a/k/a Christopher Jandrisevits

In The United States District Court For The Northern District of Texas,

Fort Worth Division

#### Gentlemen:

I am writing this letter to inform you that we will be taking a default judgment against you and/or your clients for failure to file an Answer. On two separate occasions, we agreed to Mr. Yoss' request for an extension to file an Answer for Defendants. However, over six weeks has gone by and no Answer has been filed for Defendants.



Harrison H. Yoss, House of Yahweh, Yisrayl Hawkins and Yedidiyah Kohanimyah Hawkins a/k/a Christopher Jandrisevits May 4, 2011
Page 2

Very truly yours,

Jes Alexande

JA\bgp\5460\Harrison Yoss & All Defendants Re Default Judgment 5 4 11

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Printer-friendly story Read more at reporternews.com

# Jury finds Hawkins guilty in child sexual assault trial

## House of Yahweh member faces life in prison

Reporter-News Staff Report

Tuesday, October 28, 2008

A 42nd District Court jury returned a guilty verdict against Yedidiyah Hawkins on a charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child Monday.

The sentence, to be set by Judge John Weeks, is expected within 45 days. The charge, a first-degree felony, can range from five years to life in prison.

The jury deliberated 2½ hours before returning a verdict. Hawkins, a leader of the House of Yahweh compound in Callahan County, showed little reaction to the verdict.

The courtroom, which seats 48, contained approximately 75 spectators much of the day, including when the verdict was announced. Many were representatives of Bikers Against Child Abuse, a support group for sexually abused children and their families.

The girl, 11 at the time of the assault, testified Friday that her stepfather, Hawkins, 40, used a vaginal speculum -- a medical instrument used by gynecologists -- to perform an examination on her. Though the victim was identified in court proceedings, it is the policy of the Reporter-News not to name victims of sexual assault.

The assault occurred in the home of Rachel Hawkins, who at the time was a member of the House of Yahweh. Rachel Hawkins had gone shopping in Dallas for the weekend, the girl said.

Prosecutor Shane Deel said during his opening statement that Yedidiyah Hawkins knew that the home of Rachel Hawkins, who has since left the sect, would be empty for the weekend.

Several defense witnesses testified that the girl who brought the accusations previously had admitted to them that the allegations were untrue.

Rebekah Hawkins, 16, Batashua Hawkins, 15, and Erica Hawkins, 16, all associated with the House of Yahweh, testified Monday morning in the trial at the Taylor County Courthouse.



Rebekah Hawkins said she had heard the accuser speak of abuse for at least five years. However, when Rebekah challenged her, she "almost always said it wasn't true," Rebekah Hawkins testified.

Batashua Hawkins said the girl told her Yedidiyah Hawkins was "putting things inside me." Batashua further testified that the girl didn't mention it again and that it didn't seem to bother her. The girl had said she hated her dad (Yedidiyah Hawkins) because he wouldn't let her do things. When asked if the girl could be called rebellious, Batashua chuckled and said, "Yes."

Erica Hawkins said she and the accuser were "really close" until about a year ago. She then presented an emotional plea of Yedidiyah Hawkins' innocence.

"She (the accuser) told me she was lying," she said. "He's innocent, and he's spent a year in jail."

All three mentioned spending time in a pink trailer or building at the Yahweh complex near Clyde. Attorneys painted a picture of the trailer being used as a punishment for running away or other offenses. Erica remembered spending a night there, but not as punishment.

"It was like a slumber party; we weren't being punished," she said.



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Printer-friendly story

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# New trial denied for Yahweh elder Yedidiyah Hawkins

Man convicted in October in the sexual abuse of stepdaughter, 11

By Daraiyn Schoenewald

Thursday, February 19, 2009

A 42nd District Court judge on Wednesday denied a motion to grant a House of Yahweh elder convicted of sexually abusing his stepdaughter a new trial, according to prosecutor Shane Deel.

A new attorney for Yedidiyah Hawkins, in the motion for a new trial, claimed ineffective counsel by Dallas-based attorneys John Read and C. Tony Wright.

Hawkins, 41, was convicted in October of sexually assaulting his then 11-year-old stepdaughter by performing a vaginal examination. He told the girl that he wanted to check her for cervical cancer, though he has no medical training.

Witnesses testified during the trial that Hawkins was worried the girl was no longer a virgin. He was sentenced in December to 30 years in prison.

During a sentencing hearing in December, Read mispronounced Hawkins' first name more than 30 times, according to Reporter-News files. He was pronouncing it "Yed-uh-DYE-uh," which he said was "close enough" to the correct pronunciation of "Yeh-did-ee -uh."

Parker also claimed in the motion that Hawkins had been intimidated by trial spectators, specifically by members of the Bikers Against Child Abuse group, Deel said.

It's rare that a judge will grant a motion for a new trial, according to Deel.

"They are very seldom successful," he said.

Hawkins still faces several other charges, including aggravated perjury, indecency with a child, engaging in organized criminal activity and bigamy. The cases will remain pending until Hawkins has exhausted all appeals on this case.









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## Yedidiyah Hawkins

TDCJ ID Unit 01544261 Dalhart DOB 6/8/1967 Age 44 Home CountyCallahan Sex Male Race White Height 5 ft 9 in

Weight 202 lbs Hair Color Brown Eye Color Hazel

Crime\* Raw Description<sup>1</sup> AGG SEXUAL ASSAULT AGG SEX ASLT

Committed On 2/5/2005

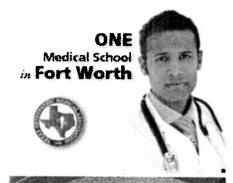
County Callahan

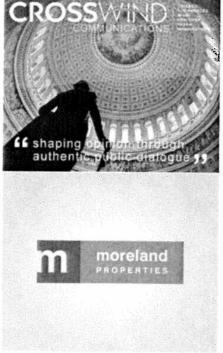
Term

Sentence Began

30 years 10/17/2007

\* The "Raw Description" field is the description that TDCJ has for each offense, which can vary between convictions for the same crime. The "Crime" field is the label we've used to try group together these varying descriptions based on the data we were given. It's not perfect, and some of them can be hard to understand.







Source: Texas Department of Criminal Justice | Developed by Matt Stiles and Niran Babalola | Feedback

Note: Data released under the Texas Public Information Act on May 9, 2011.

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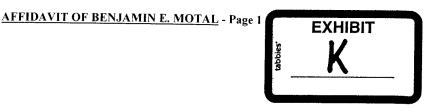
## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FORT WORTH DIVISION

**GUIDEONE LLOYDS INSURANCE** COMPANY, Plaintiff, CIVIL ACTION NO. VS. 4:11-cv-00010-Y HOUSE OF YAHWEH, YISRAYL HAWKINS a/k/a **BUFFALO BILL HAWKINS, Individually** and d/b/a HOUSE OF YAHWEH, and YEDIDIYAH KOHANIMYAH HAWKINS § a/k/a CHRISTOPHER JANDRISEVITS, 8 § Defendants. §

## AFFIDAVIT OF BENJAMIN E. MOTAL

BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary Public, personally appeared BENJAMIN E. MOTAL who, being duly sworn upon his oath, testified as follows:

- 1. My name is Benjamin E. Motal. I have not been convicted of a felony. I am an attorney licensed in the State of Texas. I am an associate to David Pruessner and Jes Alexander. My office is located at 13155 Noel Road, Suite 1025, Dallas, Texas 75240, and the following statements are based upon my personal knowledge and are true and correct.
- 2. Attached to this Affidavit are true and correct copies of documents referred to in GuideOne's Motion For Default Judgment. Specifically, such documents are:
  - A. GuideOne Insurance Policies:
  - B. Underlying Petition;
  - C. Plaintiff's Complaint For Declaratory Judgment;



- D. Summons showing service on Yedidiyah Hawkins;
- E. Summons showing service on Yisrayl Hawkins;
- F. Summons showing service on House of Yahweh;
- G. Letter notifying Defendants of GuideOne's intent to take default;
- H. News article discussing Defendant Yedidiyah Hawkins' conviction for sexual assault of a minor;
- I. News article discussing Defendant Yedidiyah Hawkins' sentence of 30 years in prison for sexual assault of a minor and denial of his motion for new trial;
- J. A print-out from a search engine of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice showing that Yedidiyah Hawkins is an inmate at T.D.C.J. Dalhart.
- K. Affidavit of Benjamin E. Motal.
- 3. Pursuant to 50 U.S.C. Appx. § 521, I have made an investigation to ascertain if Defendants Yedidiyah Kohanimyah Hawkins or Yisrayl Hawkins are currently in the Military Service of the United States. The results of my investigation are as follows:
  - A. Yedidiyah Hawkins is a 44 year old male who is currently serving his fourth year of a 30 year prison sentence at T.D.C.J. Dalhart, where he was serve with process in this action. (See Ex. J.) His imprisonment precludes him from actively serving in the military.
  - B. Yisrayl Hawkins is a 75-77 year old male who leads a church group known as House of Yahweh based in Abilene, Texas. His age precludes him from actively serving in the military.

4. From the facts set forth above, I am convinced that Defendants are not in the military service of the United States as defined in the Service Members' Civil Relief Act of 1940, 50 U.S.C. Appx. § 521.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

BENJAMIN E. MOTAL

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME the undersigned notary public, on this the

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day of

. 2011

otary Public In And For The State Of Texas

My Commission Expires: 3-25-13

